

Hudson application – they were “forward-looking” – rather than aimed at hashing out what had happened in 1995.⁵¹⁴

Disagreement exists between several applicant tribe members and Four Feathers representatives and IGMS personnel as to whether Skibine made a statement during the meeting suggesting that the application was denied for an improper purpose. Specifically, four affiants swore Skibine said: “it was not his department that did not approve Hudson, it was approved by both Ashland and Minneapolis, however, when it got to Washington, politics took over, politics killed the deal!”⁵¹⁵ Havenick recalls Skibine as having made a similar remark in a moment of exasperation at being questioned about what had happened to cause the denial of the Hudson application. Arlyn Ackley, Chairman of the Mole Lake tribe, construed the remark as having been made by Skibine in an effort to make himself and fellow DOI personnel look like they were on the side of the tribes. Not all applicant witnesses present for the meeting recall such a remark.⁵¹⁶ BIA personnel present at the meeting only recall that Skibine generally deflected questions about Hudson at the meeting by stating that the questions should be directed at the Secretary’s office. Skibine, himself, denies making such a statement and does not remember any

⁵¹⁴OIC Interview of George Skibine, Feb. 11, 1999, at 11-12.

⁵¹⁵Affidavits of Arlyn Ackley, DuWayne Derickson, Peter Liptack and Mary Ann Polar, Jan. 16, 1998. Four other affiants gave similar but slightly different accounts.

⁵¹⁶For example, notes taken contemporaneously by the Red Cliff tribal attorney do not reflect the remark.